

is important to realize that “there have been no meaningful actions on the part of the mainland, however, to reduce [China’s] military presence opposite the island.” That is a finding of the Pentagon’s annual report to Congress on Chinese military capabilities, released last month.

With its rapidly expanding arsenal of ships, missiles and aircraft, the cross-strait military balance continues to “shift in the mainland’s favor,” according to the report. Indeed, in 2001, China had 250 missiles aimed at Taiwan. Today that number is over 1,400.

This summer’s Pentagon report comes months after the Defense Intelligence Agency concluded that Taiwan’s air defenses are showing increasing vulnerability due to the aging of its fighter aircraft. While China rapidly builds its military forces, Taiwan is struggling.

To help close this gap, Taiwan has had a pending request to buy additional F–16 fighter jets. In May, over 130 members of Congress wrote to President Obama and asked that the Administration “move ahead immediately” with the sale of these airplanes. The Administration is still “studying” this proposal.

Taiwan faces one of the most complex and lethal military threats in the world. Across the region, in response to China’s build-up and increasing assertiveness, China’s neighbors are moving to strengthen their security relationships with the United States. This gravitation to the U.S. will only last as long as the U.S. is seen as a credible guarantor of stability. Moving forward with this F–16 sale would be an appropriate signal to Taiwan, and the region.

Madam Speaker, if we want cross strait détente to succeed—Taiwan will have to do so from a position of strength.

HONORING WESLEY HEINRICHS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Wesley Dean Heinrichs, a United States Marine Corps Veteran of World War II.

Mr. Heinrichs was born on November 28, 1923 in a farming community in Kirk, Colorado. He worked on his family’s farm before enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. After hearing the news on the radio about the attack on Pearl Harbor and the outbreak of the War, Mr. Heinrichs came under deep conviction to join the Marines after seeing a billboard with a Marine’s picture that stated: “we need one more good man.” It was Mr. Heinrichs’ passion and love for his country that spurred him to join the Armed Forces to defend and protect our country. In December of 1942, at the age of 19, he traveled to the recruiting office in Denver, Colorado and enlisted in the Marine Corps.

After completion of basic training in San Diego, Mr. Heinrichs served in the commissary of Camp Pendleton distributing packed foods and serving on guard duty. In the same year, he was transferred to a motor transport unit where he worked with the 1st Amphibian Truck Company. His company worked on the Dukw, an experimental amphibious truck for traveling over water and landing on coral

reefs. On December 22, 1943, Mr. Heinrich and his company were deployed to the Pacific Arena to provide support to the Marine Corps operations in the Mariana Islands.

Mr. Heinrichs and his company used the Dukws to carry 105 Howitzers and place them in strategic locations in the Mariana Islands. Additionally, Mr. Heinrichs assisted with the transportation of wounded Marines and Soldiers to medical ships and with the hauling of ammunition and supplies to Marine Bases. Mr. Heinrich and his company served in combat in the battles of Saipan and Tinnian in the Mariana Islands. After the islands were secured, Mr. Heinrichs and his company were transferred to Guam where they protected the island and began training for the invasion of Japan. In 1945, Mr. Heinrich was transferred back to San Diego and was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps on January 13, 1943.

Mr. Heinrichs now resides in Coarsegold, California and is an active member of the American Legion Post 110, the Griswold USMC League and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mr. Heinrichs and his wife of 64 years, Anna Queen Spencer Heinrichs, have four daughters, eight grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor Wesley Heinrichs for his service and dedication to our country. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Wesley Dean Heinrichs.

THE AUBURN LITTLE LEAGUERS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an inspiring group of 11- and 12-year-olds in my District who grabbed the attention of an entire region and were welcomed home as heroes because of their performance in this year’s Little League World Series at Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

The Auburn little leaguers and their coaches, Kai Nahaku and Dale Wilson, won the Northwest Regional Little League Championship en route to their trip to Williamsport. Once there, the team lost their opening game to the Little Leaguers from Fairfield, Connecticut. Madam Speaker, people started talking about Auburn’s dream season coming to an end, but the team had other ideas.

The boys won their next three games, staving off elimination each time. Playing in front of as many as 30,000 people, the team stared down fear and played an exhilarating brand of baseball, beating Minnesota and Texas before dispatching Connecticut in a rematch. Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, the team’s magical ride ended on August 26, in a loss to Texas.

The community of Auburn supported the team the entire season and some even traveled to Williamsport. The supporters who stayed home cheered wildly at viewing parties around the Auburn area. When the team returned home to Auburn, they were welcomed with a truly special celebration in front of City Hall. It was an honor to participate in the revelry and meet the coaches, players, and their supporters. Not only did the team play well on the diamond, Madam Speaker, but the boys

also represented Auburn and Washington State with class at every turn.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Hudson, Dylan, Isaiah, Ryan, Casey, Chandler, Ikaika, Dillon, Tyler, Robbie, Dillon, Coach Kai and Coach Dale for their inspiring play and for creating such fantastic memories. I want to thank Auburn Mayor Pete Lewis, Washington Governor Christine Gregoire, and the community of Auburn for providing unique and overwhelming support for the team throughout the season and upon their return. I’m excited to see what this special group of boys will accomplish in the future. Thank you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY RANGER SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER S. WRIGHT

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, August 19, 2010, our nation lost another brave hero. Army Ranger Specialist Christopher Shane Wright was killed in Pech, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained from enemy small arms fire. He was 23 years old. A Kentucky resident, Specialist Wright’s mother currently lives in Jeffersonville, IN.

Specialist Wright was known as a man of courage beyond his years. He was deeply loyal and good-hearted. He had an intense love of his family and of his fellow soldiers. When told that his grandparents would pray for him, he asked that they also pray for the soldiers in his unit as well.

Wright joined the Army in 2005. Prior to his 18th birthday, Wright expressed a desire to enlist, and within days of turning 18, he did so. Wright was a veteran of two prior deployments—once to Iraq, and once to Afghanistan.

The loss of Specialist Wright is tragic. He deserves our most heartfelt gratitude and respect. Though I did not know him, I mourn his death and the loss to his family. He and his loved ones are in my prayers.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2010 theme—Celebrating History, Heritage, and the American Dream. From September 15, 2010 through October 15, 2010, the people of the United States will once again celebrate the histories, cultures, and traditions of our Hispanic American brothers and sisters. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, and became known as National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only honor the rich culture and traditions of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the countless contributions they have made that have led to improvements in their communities, and in turn, a better America.

As we reflect on the importance of the contributions that have been made by Hispanic